

RETREAT FROM FEVER.

Woes of Shafter's Stricken Army
In Cuba and at Montauk.

"OH, THE FAMINE AND THE FEVER!"

Last of Campaign Evils the Worst.
A Sick List Simply the Full Roster
of the Army—"God Bless the Red
Cross!"—Montauk a Promised Land.

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XV.



ELSEWHERE the victors of Santiago have been described as just emerging from a horrible nightmare when the writer began his work interviewing the survivors at Camp Wikoff. There were three stages in the nightmare—the trip from Tampa to Cuba and the landing, the warfare of the jungle, blockhouse and trench, and that with the fever, this last not fully ended when the camp broke up. Every narrative of the campaign, whether from the lips of a private soldier or those of a captain, colonel or general, was prefaced and punctuated by indictments of the fever as the chief evil encountered in Cuba. Witnesses needed spurring in order to bring out details of battle, but the unusual hardships of the transports, of existence in Cuba and of the fever were staple topics.

In general the breakdown of the troops began immediately after the surrender. The heat, the loss of capacity to relish and digest coarse, fatty rations, physical strain and malaria, were reasons for the collapse. The regulars also said that drinking water was rendered impure by the volunteers, who washed and bathed in the streams above camp. Regular soldiers knew better and carried water away from the streams for their ablutions. In every respect the sanitation of the volunteers was cited as bad, and Camp Wikoff official inspection records gave evidence of it.

Weakness due to heat and the lack of nutriment invited fever. Every effort was made to stem the evil. From the first cargo of foodstuffs landed at Santiago Shafter bought several thousands cans of condensed milk for the troops. Cuban wines and all the farinaceous foods available were also purchased by the government or from outside funds. Two officers of the Sixteenth regulars, Lieutenant Colonel McLaughlin and Captain McFarland, expended \$8,000 (contributed by their wives) in getting supplies for their commands. The Red Cross led in noble work, and the one sentiment in the army about this society was, "God bless the Red Cross!" July 22 was the date when the first alarming list of fever patients was reported. Out of 1,500 sick 150 cases were set down as fever. On the 23d there were 400 new cases and 500 on the 24th. This report was misleading, for on the 25th there were over 2,100 fever cases in camp, 500 of them new, and only 287 sick of other complaints. By the 26th the sick roll had reached 3,770, nearly 3,000 being fever cases. About this time there were 600 to 800 new fever cases daily, and on the 28th, with a sick roll of 4,279, over 3,400 were down with fever. This exhibit refers to the hospital only. Several hundred fever cases were returned from the hospital to the quarters each day, but the victims were not cured, and on the 3d of August, when the round robin took the matter up, General Ames of Kent's division declared "a full list of the sick would mean a copy of the roster of every company" in Cuba. Throughout there were more sick in the quarters than in the hospital.

The first general relief began about July 24. That day Clara Barton sent word to camp that she had supplies at Santiago dock for the regimental sick. The dose for a regiment was a sack of rice and one of cornmeal. One officer told me that it cost \$1.50 to get the supply for his regiment to camp, and it helped all hands. Before the troops left Cuba they received rations of vegetables and of fresh beef. The government supplied beef to the officers' messes at 10 cents a pound. Panic prices prevailed in the markets. An officer said that he paid \$1 and upward for the canned fruit and vegetables sold by grocers here at 10 to 15 cents each and was glad to get them at any price.

On Aug. 5 the first troops sailed from Santiago. After that steamers left daily. At the end of 1,000 men per diem poured into Camp Wikoff. On the 7th of the month there was not a bit of shelter ready, and the same with about every necessity, so that on the arrival of the first troops from Cuba the accommodations were inadequate and never up to the demand until the very last. By the time the 1,000 new arrivals of a given day had been provided for a fresh detachment, half of whom were sick, demanded attention. Yet there was no apparent lack of wise and energetic action in the use of such facilities as the government provided, with the exception perhaps of the medical department. Hospitals grew, but they couldn't beat the pace of the fever; nurses came forward, but the fever gave ten new victims to the one they could save, and supplies poured in, but not in time to stop the ravaging famine of nourishment already prevailing.

The cavalry tents were pitched upon

rolling hills, but the encampment was surrounded and cut through by swamps. The infantry lay on the low seashore, where chill night winds and heavy mists made fall underwear a necessity for well men. Repeated demands failed

to bring blankets, even for the sick, until public generosity came to the rescue, and even then summer weights were supplied. Grimes' artillerymen made themselves shirts out of coarse grain sacking.

Candidly, words fail to describe the situation as I found it from Aug. 22 to 29, and this not at the hospitals, but in the quarters of supposed well men. On every side I heard the one cry, sometimes equaling in terrible suggestiveness those harrowing lines of Longfellow:

Oh, the famine and the fever!
Oh, the wasting of the famine!
Oh, the blasting of the fever!

Stories of exalted daring and heroism have failed to remove from my mind its first impression, which was that I was in a pest camp.

An extreme example of distress was the Eighth regulars which was just out of Camp Detention when I visited the quarters. It had been among the last to leave Cuba. About 40 sick were left at Santiago, many having been sent north earlier, and there were 60 technically sick at Montauk. This regiment came up on the transport Mobile, where 11 died from the ranks of well men as against 8 deaths among the sick on the hospital ship Olivette. When I asked the commandant how many men he could muster for battle or heavy fatigue duty, he answered, "None!" For explanation I was invited to walk through the company streets. Every tent had from two to four prostrate men rolled in blankets, their faces the picture of deep and prolonged suffering, due, as was stated, to general debility and fever. Every regiment had a sad story of sick in quarters, not varying, relatively, from the following statement taken verbatim at the headquarters of the Second Massachusetts:

Went to Cuba, 655 strong; effectives on paper at Montauk, 500; fit for duty, 50. Came north on the Mobile; over 400 sick all the way from Santiago; left 37 sick of yellow fever in Cuba under care of an officer, a surgeon and ten men, besides about 70 sick in Santiago hospitals. Have put in Montauk hospital 30 sick and suffered in all 60 deaths. Colonel Clark thinks that 150 men will be disabled for life from hardships, fever and wounds.

For the sick in quarters at Camp Wikoff there was no government medicine and no aid up to Sept. 1. Coarse field rations formed the staple diet until they got into the hospital. Half the duty men were too weak to walk from the wharf to Camp Detention. One transport came to the offing flying a flag of distress and signaled: "Men starving. Send food." On the 28th of August out of 15 fever applicants for the general hospital 12, having a temperature of 106, were sent back to the regiments. Colonel Forwood said that his hospital carried already a third more than its normal capacity, and 106 was not a high temperature.

There were positively no medicines for the camp sick in the government supplies. I saw requisitions reiterating demands that had been repeated daily many times, and heard official statements made to cover a whole division, while Colonel Forwood admitted as much for the entire camp. Knowledge of this lack of medicine reached General Wheeler late on Aug. 27, and on the 28th there was a council of surgeons lasting five hours. At this council it transpired that there were 8,000 sick soldiers in the camp out of about 12,000 men, including those who had not been in Cuba; also that there was no medicine except for the 2,000 actually in hospital. General Wheeler took the matter in hand, cutting red tape and wiring rush orders for medicine, as well as outfits for division hospitals to receive the overflow at the general hospital.

By the way, General Wheeler was the man for the hour at Camp Wikoff, as



GENERAL WHEELER.
(Commander at Camp Wikoff.)

Shafter had been in the crisis at Santiago. Wheeler is a marvelous, tireless and self-sacrificing worker, patient yet uncompromising, courteous yet persistent, with but one weakness, if weakness it was. His heart was always open to individual distress. Possibly the many did not suffer because of his attention to the few.

On the 5th of September, after a brief absence, I returned to camp to find the evil remedied in part. Still there were not nurses enough for delirious and unconscious cases and no adequate cooking arrangements for men on diet. On the whole, however, the health of the men improved greatly by Sept. 10. The trip north, with change of air, the hope inspired by the thought that the heroes of Santiago were not to be left to die, the

fruit and vegetables supplied by public generosity and by the government—above all, the milk ration ordered by Secretary Alger on Aug. 25—had raised the physical tone so that the men could help themselves. All in all, then, Camp Wikoff was a promised land for Shafter's stricken army. Relief from famine and from fever came none too soon, but it came through the timely removal of the corps from the world's worst fever pest hole, Santiago de Cuba.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

PRETTY ACCESSORIES.

Fluffy Adjuncts of the Present Fashionable Toilet.

A great deal of trimming is employed, although at the beginning of the season an attempt was made to introduce and establish the exceedingly close, plain style of attire. We are not quite ready for it as yet and cling pertinaciously to frills, fur-belows and fluffy accessories, such as boas, ruches and fleches. Tiny capes of tulle, mousseline de sole or silk matching the gown are the latest development in this line and are very pretty. Boas of gray ostrich plumage are likewise in great demand, although ostrich feathers are usually less picturesque for boas and ruches than are coo feathers. Beige boas are also worn, but gray has the preference over all



MOUSSELINE GOWN.

other colors. Fluffy neckwear is adopted by women of all ages and suits almost every face, provided a tint becoming to the complexion be chosen.

Mousseline de sole is used in the utmost profusion, composing the little pelerines, ruches, fleches, capes, full plaistons and draped and gathered bodices now so universally adopted. Embroidery, incrustations, tucks and spangles serve to enrich the material, although the plain mousseline is often most attractive.

The picture shows a gown in which the skirt consists of platings of mauve mousseline de sole mounted on a yoke of white guipure. The draped bodice of guipure over narrow silk has a puffed half front of mauve mousseline de sole. The wrinkled sleeves are of mauve mousseline de sole, the shoulder knot and neck and above frills of white mousseline de sole. The hat of light beige straw is trimmed with yellow flowers.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

Have the Kitchen Small.

"By all means have a small kitchen," writes Mrs. S. T. Rorer in reply to an inquirer in The Ladies' Home Journal. "A large kitchen with a cellar door at one side, a table at another, a range at another and the sink at still another requires too much walking. Time is consumed in going from one place to another rather than with actual work. Have your range placed in a light and convenient part of the kitchen. In front have a good sized table, containing drawers and spaces underneath for keeping utensils, one portion of the top covered with zinc and the other half left plain. Have underneath the top a baking board which you can easily pull out. The sink should be near at hand. The pantry may be on the other side of the kitchen and be sufficiently large to hold a barrel of flour, a small pastry table and a convenient arrangement of shelves.

How to Prepare Celery.

Not many people know that a bunch of celery in the hands of a good housekeeper is one of the few things about which there is absolutely no waste. From an ordinary bunch of celery of five stalks pick off the large leaves, wash them and place in a quart of water, letting the quantity boil down to about half a pint. When cold, bottle this liquid and keep in a cool place to be used for flavoring gravies and soups. Next wash and boil the five roots the same as potatoes, trying them with a fork to tell when done. Cut them into thin slices, add a finely cut onion and make into a salad the same as the ordinary potato salad. The large and coarser stalks of celery cut into inch lengths, boil, cover with a cream sauce and serve as a vegetable. The delicate stalks use as ordinarily for a relish, and the young yellow leaves will be found to make a pretty trimming for the meat dish. This uses every scrap of the celery itself, but the careful housekeeper will not even discard the string which ties the stalks together, but if it is long enough will roll it up for future use.

Wisdom of Aguinaldo.

After studying the situation Aguinaldo has concluded that it would be better to sacrifice a little splendor and have a steady situation.—Washington Star.

In the Same Class.

As dictators Aguinaldo at Manila and Typewriter Blanco at Havana are now practically in the same class.—Philadelphia Times.

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